Commission has informed that it has not issued any guidelines for KVS.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

UN child meet

4741. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report, "U.N. child meet may expose Indian record" published in the Times of India dated 19th April, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the reasons for India's dismal performance with regard to nutrition, education and child care; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems relating to child development, highlighted in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is taking adequate steps to improve the condition of children in the country. Some examples are:

1. Under five mortality rate: pet thousand live births, reduced in 5 years from 109 (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 94.9 (1998-1999) (NFHS II).
2. Infant mortality rate: per thousand live births reduced from 80 (1990) (SRS) to 68 (1998-1999) (NFHS II).
3. Underweight prevalence from 53.4% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 47% (1998-1999) (NFHS II)
4. Stunting prevalence from 52% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 45.5% (1998-99) (NFHS II).
5. Wasting prevalence from 17.5% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 15.5% (1998-99) (NFHS II).

6. School attendance, age 6—14 (female) improved from 59% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 74% (1998-1999) NFHS II).

7. School Attendance, age 6—14 (male) went up from 75.5% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 84% (1998-1999) (NFHS II).

(d) Several Ministries and Departments of the Government of India are implementing various schemes and programmes for the development of children. **The Reproductive and Child Health Programme** was launched in 1997 providing child health care and maternal services. A major initiative is the **Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan** with the primary objective to provide free and quality elementary education to all children by 2010. It proposes to cover all districts in the country by the end of Ninth Plan. The proposed **Constitutional (93rd Amendment) Bill, 2001** has the objective of making education of all children in the age group of 6—14 years a fundamental right. The Government is in the process of finalising a **National Nutrition Mission** for the eradication of malnutrition in the country. The Government proposes to adopt a **Nation Policy and Charter for Children** and establish a **National Commission** for Children to oversee proper implementation of existing laws for children and protection of child rights. **The Integrated Child Development Services Programme** delivers an integrated package of basic services including supplementary nutrition, preschool education, immunization, health checkup, referral services, nutrition and health education. The programme is covering 314.43 lakhs children below 6 years and 62.25 lakh pregnant and lactating women through 5652 ICDS projects.

Reserved Quota in KVs and NVs

4742. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs/STs/OBCs has not reached the prescribed quota of 49.5 per cent in respect of different categories of employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, so far;

(b) if so, the total number of posts in each category;